

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-04

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R 121815Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 027028

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 027028 SENT ACTION BONN LONDON

INFO NATO, FEBRUARY 8TH:

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 027028

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, NATO, US

SUBJECT: CRESTED CAP 74

1. EXERCISE CRESTED CAP IS THE ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT OF FOUR USAF TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRONS (TOTAL-96 AIRCRAFT) FROM THE US TO THE FRG. IT FULFILLS A COMMITMENT UNDER THE 1967 TRILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UK AND THE FRG UNDER WHICH THESE AIRCRAFT WERE DUAL-BASED IN THE US. CRESTED CAP 74 IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 6 TO MAY 3. THE FULL EXERCISE WILL CONSUME ABOUT FOURTEEN MILLION GALLONS OF POL AND WILL DRAW DOWN US OPERATIONAL STOCKS IN EUROPE AND COULD REQUIRE EXPENDITURE OF WAR RESERVE STOCKS.

2. WE ARE UNDER STRONG PRESSURE TO REDUCE MILITARY FUEL CONSUMPTION WHEREVER POSSIBLE AND ARE EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING OUR PARTICIPATION IN CRESTED CAP THIS YEAR. WE SEEK A SOLUTION WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES, DEMONSTRATES OUR INTENTION TO FULFILL OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE TRILATERAL AGREEMENT TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, ACHIEVES MAXIMUM TRAINING FOR FUEL EXPENDED AND BALANCES THE TRAINING FOR OUR DUAL BASED

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UNITS WITH TRAINING FOR OUR LAND AND AIR FORCES STATIONED

IN EUROPE. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, WE ARE CONSIDERING AN OPTION TO DEPLOY TWO (VICE FOUR) COMPOSITE SQUADRONS OF 24 AIRCRAFT EACH. THE TWO SQUADRONS WOULD DEPLOY IN SUCCESSION FOR A PERIOD OF 30 DAYS WITH A BRIEF OVERLAP

BETWEEN THE ARRIVAL OF THE SECOND SQUADRON AND THE RETURN OF THE FIRST. THIS OPTION WOULD CONSUME APPROXIMATELY 8.1 MILLION GALLONS. WE BELIEVE THIS PROPOSAL STRIKES A REALISTIC BALANCE BETWEEN OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE TRILATERAL AGREEMENT, MILITARY FUEL CONSUMPTION, AND CIVILIAN FUEL REQUIREMENTS.

3. REQUEST YOU CONSULT WITH DEFENSE AND FOREIGN OFFICES AND REPORT THEIR REACTION TO A TENTATIVE 50 PERCENT REDUCTION IN US CRESTED CAP PARTICIPATION. IN PRESENTING OUR PROPOSAL YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT:

A. THE US COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE REMAINS UNDIMINISHED.

B. WE CONTINUE TO ACCEPT OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE 1967 TRILATERAL AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, THE PRESENT FUEL SITUATION HAS FORCED US TO REEXAMINE ALL OUR TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

C. WE PLAN TO RESUME THE FULL LEVEL OF OUR PARTICIPATION IN CRESTED CAP IN THE FUTURE.

D. WE BELIEVE THE ACTIONS WE PROPOSE ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE AS REPORTED IN USNATO 0469.

4. REQUEST YOU REPORT HOST GOVERNMENT VIEWS (INCLUDING PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASPECT) SOONEST SO THAT WE MAY CONSIDER THEM IN OUR PLANNING. KISSINGER

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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